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### ***Kernan Announces Grants to Train 2,240 Workers at Five North Central Indiana Companies***

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that five north central Indiana companies have been awarded training grants from the Indiana Department of Commerce Skills Enhancement Fund.

“These companies are improving their workforce through training and upgrades to equipment and technology, and that’s a strong combination,” said Kernan, who leads the state’s economic development efforts. “We’re proud to partner with companies like these that take the initiative to improve their employees’ skills.”

- **Fairmont Homes, Inc.**, Nappanee, has been awarded a \$175,000 grant to retrain 685 incumbent employees as part of a \$1.1 million investment in building and equipment upgrades. Fairmont Homes, Inc. was founded in 1971 as a manufacturer of multi-sectional, singlewide and doublewide housing units. The company also manufactures Fairmont, Friendship and Century product lines at its facility. Fairmont Homes, Inc. will use the grant to train employees in plumbing, electrical wiring and metrics.
- **Honeywell Aircraft Landing Systems**, South Bend, has been awarded a \$160,000 grant to train 535 existing employees following the company’s \$9.5 million investment in new equipment. With customers around the world, Honeywell Aircraft Landing Systems is the sole source producer of wheels and brakes for most current military aircraft. Headquartered in South Bend, the company will use the Commerce grant to train employees in computer, welding, electrical and carpentry skills.
- **Maple Leaf Farms, Inc.**, Milford, has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to train 30 new and 476 existing associates following a company investment of \$1.8 million in new equipment. Founded in 1958, Maple Leaf Farms, Inc. is the nation’s leading duckling producer. Using the grant, employees will be trained in microbiology, basic math and computer skills.

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- **PENZ Products, Inc.**, Mishawaka, has been awarded a \$26,000 grant to train 35 new and 98 existing associates following the company's \$550,000 investment in building upgrades and new equipment. Founded in 1956, the family-owned company is a leading steel and plastic parts fabricator for the truck and trailer industry. Maintaining an in-house tool and die shop, PENZ Products has the ability to customize products to its customers needs. As a result of the grant, employees will be trained in tool and die apprenticeships and quality control procedures.
- **Reese Products, Inc.**, Elkhart, has been awarded an \$88,500 grant to train 118 new and 221 existing employees following the company's \$3.9 million investment in building upgrades and new equipment. Reese Products, Inc. is a division of Metaldyne, a leading producer of hitching systems and towing accessories for the RV industry in the U.S., Canada and Australia. Employees will pick up skills in forklift training, bar coding, computer operation and welding as a result of the grant.
- **Teter Tool & Die, Inc.**, LaPorte, has been awarded a \$12,600 grant to train 16 new and 26 current employees following a \$600,000 building and equipment upgrade. The company has been located and operating from its current location for more than 40 years and has two units of tool and die metal stamping. Teter Tool & Die, Inc., services a wide variety of customers in the auto, truck and appliance industries. The company will use the grant to train employees in ISO certification.

Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact the Business Development Division at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at [www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com).

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